Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 SY-05 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 /113 W

-----098407 181215Z /46

R 181033Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4891
INFO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: MOPS, ET. SO

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN PRESS CLAIMS SOMALI REGULARS USED IN OGADEN

1. JULY 17 ETHIOPIAN HERALD EDITORIAL FLATLY ACCUSES SOMALIA OF DEPLOYING SMALL NUMBERS OF REGULAR ARMY TROOPS IN SUPPORT OF INFILTRATING "BANDITS", WHO ARE VIOLATING ETHIOPIA'S EASTERN BORDER, SABOTAGING ECONOMIC INSTALLATIONS, ROBBING, MURDERING, AND COMMITTING ATROCITIES AGAINST INHABITANTS OF REGION. CITING DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE AND EYE-WITNESS REPORTS, EDITORIAL CLAIMS THAT SIAD BARRE, ACKNOWLEDGING FAILURE OF PAST IRREGULAR GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES AND FEARING TO INITIATE DIRECT AGGRESSION IN CLASSIC SENSE, HAD RESORTED TO THIS MEANS OF THREATENING ETHIOPIAN UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, IN VIOLATION OF UN AND OAU CHARTERS.

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2. EDITORIAL, WHICH IS WELL-WRITTEN AND APPEARS TO CARRY SOME AUTHORITY, WARNS THAT RESPONSI ILITY FOR WHAT MAY FOLLOW, GIVEN ETHIOPIA'S LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF SELF DEFENSE, RESTS SQUARELY ON SOMALI LEADERS' SHOULDERS. UNLESS PROVOCATIONS CEASE, "ETHIOPIA ENTITLED TO RESPOND IN WHATEVER WAY DEEMED APPROPRIATE" TO ENSURE RESPECT FOR ITS BORDERS AND SAFETY OF ITS

CITIZENS RESIDING IN REGION.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY NOTES THAT UPI REPORTS (JULY 15 WIRELESS FILE) QUOTE WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT (WSLF) SOURCES AS STATING THAT "HUNDREDS, MAYBE THOUSANDS" OF FORMER SOMALI REGULAR ARMY TROOPS HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO TRAIN AND FIGHT WITH WSLF. AS PACE OF FIGHTING ESCALATES, BOTH COUNTRIES SEEM TO BE INCHING CLOSER TO POSITION WHERE THEY CAN JUSTIFY TO WORLD OPINION FURTHER BELLIGERENT MOVES AGAINST OTHER, SHOULD THEY DEEM IT NECESSARY TO EMPLOY THEM.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, INFILTRATION

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 18-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS04345
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770254-1084

Format: TEL

From: ADDIS ABABA Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770749/aaaabpze.tel

Line Count: 74 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: f7ef356a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1835466 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: ETHIOPIAN PRESS CLAIMS SOMALI REGULARS USED IN OGADEN

TAGS: MOPS, SOPN, ET, SO

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f7ef356a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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